Implementation of new food labelling rules

*115. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to defer implementation of new food labelling rules by another three months;

(b) whether Ministry had issued a draft notification regarding food labelling which was to be implemented by May 20, 2008;

(c) if so, whether Government has now decided to defer its implementation; and

(d) what are main reasons therefor and by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) A notification No. GSR 491 (E) on nutritional labelling of food articles was published on 21.8.2006. Due to the concerns raised by the industry in implementing different provisions of the notification and the attendant difficulties, the date of implementation of this notification was deferred and an expert committee was constituted to go into its different clauses. On the recommendation of the expert committee, a comprehensive draft notification No. 380 (E) was published on 15.5.2008 and comments from all the stakeholders were invited. After taking into account all the received comments, the final notification GSR No. 664 (E) for nutritional labelling of food articles was published on 19.9.2008.

The notification GSR No. 664 (E) dated 19.9.2008 will come into effect after six months from the date of publication, *i.e.* from 19.3.2009. This time period has been provided to meet the requirement of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement of WTO of which India is also a signatory. As this notification will have an impact on international trade, a mandatory minimum time period of six months was required to be provided for implementation.

Train protection warning system

*116. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch train protection warning system, that will eliminate human error *i.e.* signal passing at danger and over-speeding, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system has since been tested successfully and installed on certain sections of the Indian Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the time-frame within which it would be installed on East Coast Railway and other Rail systems?